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Next 20 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

27-4450/A

18 JUN 1977

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter. Of course I appreciate your congratulations and well wishes, but I was especially pleased that you shared with me some of your thoughts about the CIA.

You may be surprised, as I was, to learn that CIA publishes many unclassified reports on important topics--perhaps you are familiar with the recent publicity on our publication about Soviet oil prospects. I am planning to do more of this so that the public will have more opportunity to benefit from our work.

In the case of covert action operations, their number has declined and represent a very small portion of the total intelligence budget. There is a process for approval that ensures the most careful consideration at the highest levels--submission to a Cabinet-level committee of the National Security Council, certification by the President that each proposal is important to our national security, and timely reporting to seven committees of the Congress. In addition, an Intelligence Oversight Board reports to the President and the Attorney General any abuses or improprieties.

These are but two examples that gave me reassurance about the work and conduct of the activities of the CIA. I hope they will reassure you too. I agree that we must have a strong and effective intelligence organization, and will continue my efforts to see that we do.

Thank you again for your comments and support.

Yours,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

Mr. Joseph V. Collins  
Assistant Vice President  
Mortgage Department  
Equibank N.A.  
Oliver Plaza  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

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Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222

Executive Registry

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**Equibank**

May 27, 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

You are certainly faced with a mammoth task of restoring the creditability of the CIA, with all citizens of the United States.

The United States must have a strong CIA or similar type intelligence agency, as we must always be aware of the activities of all of the other nations in the world. Intelligence gathering is important to all nations; however, the gathering of information via covert operations is highly suspect. It is possible that the size, degree and extent of covert operations could eventually undermine the system that it is attempting to protect and/or serve.

The CIA is certainly essential to the safety and strength of the United States but must be operated under recognized controls. At the same time, the nature of its intelligence gathering operations also requires a high degree of efficiency.

Congratulations on your appointment as Director of the CIA, and good luck on the streamlining and operations of same.

Sincerely,

*Joseph V. Collins*  
Joseph V. Collins  
Assistant Vice President  
MORTGAGE DEPARTMENT

JVC/js

PREPARED IN EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT/RRRatliff

CDR McMahon \_\_\_\_\_

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Sincerely,

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